

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1838

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women’s business centers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2009

Ms. FALLIN (for herself, Ms. CLARKE, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women’s business centers, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF**  
4       **GRANT AMOUNTS.**

5       Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)  
6       is amended by adding the following new subsection at the  
7       end thereof:

8       “(o) NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF  
9       GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall disburse

1 funds to a women’s business center not later than one  
2 month after the center’s application is approved under this  
3 section. At the end of each fiscal year the Administrator  
4 (acting through the Office of Women’s Business owner-  
5 ship) shall publish on the Administration’s website a re-  
6 port setting forth the total amount of the grants made  
7 under this Act to each women’s business center in the fis-  
8 cal year for which the report is issued, the total amount  
9 of such grants made in each prior fiscal year to each such  
10 center, and the total amount of private matching funds  
11 provided by each such center over the lifetime of the cen-  
12 ter.”.

13 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS.**

14 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
15 656), as amended, is further amended by adding the fol-  
16 lowing new subsection at the end thereof:

17 “(p) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Administrator shall  
18 establish, by rule, a standardized process to communicate  
19 with women’s business centers regarding program admin-  
20 istration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory  
21 matters, and programmatic changes. The Administrator  
22 shall notify each women’s business center of the oppor-  
23 tunity for notice and comment on the proposed rule.”.

1 **SEC. 3. FUNDING.**

2 (a) FORMULA.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business  
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may  
6 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-  
7 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of  
8 small business concerns owned and controlled by  
9 women. The projects shall provide—

10 “(A) financial assistance, including train-  
11 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-  
12 cure business credit and investment capital,  
13 preparing and presenting financial statements,  
14 and managing cash flow and other financial op-  
15 erations of a business concern;

16 “(B) management assistance, including  
17 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-  
18 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
19 ity and function of a small business concern;  
20 and

21 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-  
22 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-  
23 menting domestic and international market op-  
24 portunities, preparing and executing marketing  
25 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating  
26 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,

1 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-  
2 tising techniques.

3 “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide  
4 assistance under paragraph (1) in 3 tiers of assist-  
5 ance as follows:

6 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-  
7 year project in a situation where a project has  
8 not previously been conducted. Such a project  
9 shall be in a total amount of not more than  
10 \$150,000 per year.

11 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a  
12 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier  
13 project is being completed. Such a project shall  
14 be in a total amount of not more than  
15 \$100,000 per year.

16 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a  
17 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier  
18 project is being completed. Such a project shall  
19 be in a total amount of not more than  
20 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants shall be  
21 renewable subject to established eligibility cri-  
22 teria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

23 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts  
24 made available for assistance under this subsection,  
25 the Administrator shall allocate—

1           “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier  
2 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

3           “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects  
4 under paragraph (2)(B); and

5           “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects  
6 under paragraph (2)(C).

7           “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER  
8 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under  
9 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use  
10 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the  
11 community and on the performance of the applicant.  
12 The benchmarks shall include—

13           “(A) the total number of women served by  
14 the project;

15           “(B) the proportion of low income women  
16 and socio-economic distribution of clients served  
17 by the project;

18           “(C) the proportion of individuals in the  
19 community that are socially or economically dis-  
20 advantaged (based on median income);

21           “(D) the future fund-raising and service  
22 coordination plans;

23           “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

1           “(F) geographic distribution within and  
2           across the 10 regions of the Small Business Ad-  
3           ministration.”.

4           (b) MATCHING.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-  
5           tion 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
6           656(c)(1)) are amended to read as follows:

7           “(A) For the first and second years of the  
8           project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal  
9           dollars.

10           “(B) Each year after the second year of  
11           the project—

12           “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each  
13           Federal dollar; or

14           “(ii) if the center is in a community  
15           at least 50 percent of the population of  
16           which is below the median income for the  
17           State or United States territory in which  
18           the center is located, 1 non-Federal dollar  
19           for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

20           (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 20 of the Small Busi-  
21           ness Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting  
22           the following new subsection after subsection (e):

23           “(f) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—There is au-  
24           thorized to be appropriated for purposes of grants under  
25           section 29 to women’s business centers not more than

1 \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and not more than  
2 \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2011.”.

3 **SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE AND PLANNING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small  
5 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)) is amended by strik-  
6 ing the “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), redesign-  
7 ing subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D), and in-  
8 serting the following new subparagraphs after subpara-  
9 graph (A):

10 “(B) establish performance measures, tak-  
11 ing into account the demographic differences of  
12 populations served by women’s business centers,  
13 which measures shall include—

14 “(i) outcome-based measures of the  
15 amount of job creation or economic activity  
16 generated in the local community as a re-  
17 sult of efforts made and services provided  
18 by each women’s business center, and

19 “(ii) service-based measures of the  
20 amount of services provided to individuals  
21 and small business concerns served by each  
22 women’s business center;

23 “(C) require each women’s business center  
24 to submit an annual plan for the next year that  
25 includes the center’s funding sources and

1 amounts, strategies for increasing outreach to  
2 women-owned businesses, strategies for increas-  
3 ing job growth in the community, and other  
4 content as determined by the Administrator;  
5 and”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 29(h)(1) of  
7 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)), as amend-  
8 ed, is further amended by adding the following at the end  
9 thereof:

10 “The Administrator’s evaluation of each women’s  
11 business center as required by this subsection shall  
12 be in part based on the performance measures under  
13 subparagraphs (B) and (C). These measures and the  
14 Administrator’s evaluations thereof shall be made  
15 publicly available.”.

16 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL.**

17 The Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 is  
18 amended as follows:

19 (1) In section 409(a) (15 U.S.C. 7109(a)), add  
20 the following at the end thereof: “Such studies shall  
21 include a study on the impact of the 2008–2009 fi-  
22 nancial markets crisis on women-owned businesses,  
23 and a study of the use of the Small Business Admin-  
24 istration’s programs by women-owned businesses.”.



1           (2) In section 410(a) (15 U.S.C. 7110(a)),  
2       strike out “2001 through 2003” and insert “2010  
3       and 2011”.

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